Information for Non-Immigrant Visa Applicants

Visa Interviews are by appointment only. Appointments are available most weekdays. **All U.S. Consulates in South Africa are closed on South African and US holidays. The Consulates General in Cape Town and Durban are closed to the public every Friday. The Consulate General in Johannesburg is closed the last Friday of every month to the public.** Detailed instructions on making an appointment are on the website: **http://southafrica.usvisa-info.com.**

STEP ONE: Contact the Visa Information Service Center (VISC) via telephone toll-free at **080-098-0444** (locally for Cape Town 021-300-9700, Durban 031-100-3000, or Johannesburg 010-500-8800) between 8 AM and 8 PM Monday to Friday, or visit the website **http://southafrica.usvisa-info.com** to determine your non-immigrant visa type or for any general questions.

STEP TWO: **Complete the visa application form:** Each applicant must visit **https://ceac.state.gov/GENNIV/** to complete the **DS-160** visa application form. Upon completion you need to print out the bar-code confirmation page. You will need this barcode number to schedule the appointment and this page must be produced at the Consulate on the day of your interview.

STEP THREE: After completing the DS-160 application form, you will need to contact the call center website at **http://southafrica.usvisa-info.com**) to obtain a unique deposit slip instruction sheet for cash payment at an ABSA branch which you will receive by email for you to print out. It has unique numbers you will need to make the deposit.

STEP FOUR: Take the deposit slip to an ABSA branch to make payment. Wait up to four hours until payment has been posted, and then re-contact the call center/website with the deposit receipt number necessary to schedule an appointment. If you pay near close of business, you may have to wait until mid-morning the next business day until your fee has been posted.

STEP FIVE: You will be given an appointment date and asked to pre-select a DHL office to which your passport can be delivered free of charge. You will then receive an appointment confirmation letter by e-mail.

STEP SIX – Bring to Your Interview:
- A valid passport which has unused visa pages (not amendment pages). Please bring all prior passports.
- The *application* confirmation page from the DS-160.
- The *appointment* confirmation page.
- A recent front-facing, 50 mm x 50 mm photograph of each applicant.

Passport delivery after a successful visa interview: Successful applicants may choose from the following three options:

1. Free delivery to the DHL office that you have pre-selected, where you will pick it up after 3-5 business days.
2. Pay 90 Rand for standard home/office delivery, which usually takes 3-5 business days.
3. Pay 288 Rand for expedited delivery to one of three specified DHL locations, where you will pick it up. In general, applicants who opt for the expedited delivery option are able to pick up the passport the next business day after the interview, but this cannot be guaranteed.

The fees for options 2 or 3 must be paid at the Consulate DHL in-House counter on the day of your interview. If you are applying in Durban, you must go to the Berea Road DHL office to make payment. Any application may be subject to additional review or processing resulting in additional time before the visa is returned.

Applicants should be prepared to demonstrate their strong social, economic and/or family ties to South Africa as well as their purpose and duration of travel.

Please Note:

- **Plane Tickets**: Applicants should obtain a visa BEFORE purchasing tickets or making irrevocable travel plans.
- **Cell phones** and other portable electronics are not allowed in the Consulate. Arriving at the Consulate with these items will delay your entry.
- **Paid Parking** is available in the vicinity of the Consulate. *There is no public parking at the Consulate*.

Useful Websites:

The following are websites that may be helpful to visa applicants and travelers to the U.S. Please note that only websites that end in ".gov" are official U.S. Government websites.

Applying for a non-immigrant visa
- **http://southafrica.usvisa-info.com – The U.S. Visa Information Service Center (visa appointment call center/website):   Provides general information about the visa application process. This is the sole website where visa applicants may book visa interview appointments in South Africa.**
- http://southafrica.usembassy.gov – U.S. Diplomatic Mission to South Africa: general information about the U.S. Mission in South Africa, and U.S. Government programs.
- http://www.travel.state.gov – U.S. Department of State travel site: information for foreigners traveling to the U.S., U.S. citizens traveling abroad and consular information.
- http://evisaforms.state.gov – U.S. State Department's **Electronic Visa Application Forms**: visa application and supplemental forms, information on visa policies and regulations.
- https://www.fmjfee.com – **Student and Exchange Visitor Program**: to pay the mandatory **SEVIS** fee for F, M, and J applicants.

Visa Waiver Program information:
- http://www.travel.state.gov – U.S. Department of State travel site: information for foreigners traveling to the U.S., U.S. citizens traveling abroad and consular information.
- https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov – U.S. Department of Homeland Security website for "ESTA", the Electronic System for Travel Authorization.
- http://www.usembassy.org.uk/cons_new/visa/visa_wizard.html. - U.S. Embassy London website with a "visa wizard" that helps travelers determines if they qualify for the Visa Waiver Program.
- http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/ - U.S. Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA): for travelers from countries in the Visa Waiver Program to register and receive their travel authorization. The ESTA program will be mandatory beginning in January of 2009.

Student Visas:
- https://www.fmjfee.com – **Student and Exchange Visitor Program**: to pay the mandatory **SEVIS** fee for F, M, and J applicants.
- http://southafrica.usembassy.gov – U.S. Diplomatic Mission to South Africa: general information about the U.S. Mission in South Africa, **how to apply for visas in South Africa**, and U.S. Government programs.
- http://www.travel.state.gov – U.S. Department of State travel site: information for foreigners traveling to the U.S., U.S. citizens traveling abroad and consular information.
- http://evisaforms.state.gov – U.S. State Department's **Electronic Visa Application Forms**: visa application and supplemental forms, information on visa policies and regulations.